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The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
Chairman, Preparedness Subcommittee
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Johnson:

Your letter of 15 February 1952, relating to the CIA unclassified personnel pool, is at hand. Allegations almost identical with those of your informant came to my attention in the first week of January, and I had an immediate inspection of the operation of this pool made by my inspector general. The facts are as follows:

1. We do frequently hire personnel and put them on the payroll pending a completion of their clearance. It costs us approximately \$140 to make a security clearance check and it is obviously wasteful to make such a check and then discover the person is not available for hiring because of having taken another job. To meet this dilemma, we established the unclassified pool. The average length of stay in the pool during the months of December and January was under 30 days.
2. There is no truth in your informant's statement that almost no work is done at the pool. The personnel there do work for other offices of this Agency in such volume that for several months the pool has been substantially self-supporting. A number of your staff could readily check this by dropping in unannounced to observe the work which is being done. The pool headquarters is located at 939 D Street, N. W., Fifth Floor, and any properly accredited representative of your staff will be welcome there at any time.

You will be interested to know that our Director of Training reports that it is impossible to install any training program at the pool because personnel there are so completely occupied with the work projects referred to above.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Walter B. Smith
Director

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